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OVERSEAS REACTION TO THE CUBAN SITUATION
(As of 8 a.m., November 24, 1962)

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SUMMARY

Comment continues light, even in Western Europe. Most available press comment concludes that the Cuban crisis has now been ended with the agreement to remove the bombers and the subsequent lifting of the quarantine and the removal of the state of alert of the Soviet armed forces. There is scattered comment from Europe's press, foreseeing a favorable turn of events in East-West relations, but a few speak of continuing tension in the Caribbean.

The Times of India too concludes that the crisis is over, handing out bouquets to the principal parties: To U Thant for his diplomatic skill, to the President for his successful policy, and to Khrushchev for having the good sense to retire when he found himself in the wrong.

The Japanese are somewhat out of step, warning that tensions still persist and flaying the United States for "chasing Cuba into the arms of the Communists." Yomiuri insists on an "iron-clad guarantee of non-aggression" from the United States to safeguard Cuban independence.

Reports from Cuba indicate that its propaganda is marking time, serving up some reassurance that the Soviet Union has not entirely deserted Cuba in its hour of trial. An editorial article in El Mundo underscores this topic. But there is no firm news of the activities of Mikoyan, beyond that he was reported touring the Eastern Provinces. AFP reports from Havana carry the intelligence that Castro is still looking for a U.S. invasion in view of Cuban reluctance to permit on-site inspection of the dismantled bases.

Moscow's Literary Gazette today said: "The main thing in settling the crisis has been done." Praising the road to negotiations, it points out that other "mutually acceptable compromises" could now be made on such issues as a nuclear test ban, the Berlin problem and the German issue. The editorial, however, still finds that some American politicians do not approve of the agreement between Khrushchev and Kennedy: "The American Marlboroughs continue to incite." The paper also stresses worldwide approval of the Soviet role in averting war over Cuba.

There is no comment from Peking.

WESTERN EUROPE

European media hailed the President's press conference statements as evidence that the Cuban crisis was no longer a menace to world peace, thanks largely to U.S. firmness. On longer-range aspects, opinion varied. Some held that a new era of world-wide detente was at hand while others stressed the problems posed by the continued existence of Castro and Soviet expansionism.

West European media permitted themselves a glow of deep satisfaction over the Presidential announcements. In normally sceptical Germany there were such headlines as "Back From The Brink of Hell" (Koelnische Rundschau, Cologne, pro-government) and "Reward For Determination" (Deutsche Zeitung, Cologne, right-center), themes which characterized much editorial comment throughout Western Europe.

A sizeable number of papers saw in the detente grounds for hope for a new era in US-USSR relations. Thus independent Le Scir, Brussels, underlining the desire on both sides to negotiate, asked: "Does the world find itself at the crossroads? Certain people are not far from that thought." The U.S. correspondent of the Christian-democratic organ Il Popolo, Rome, stressed free-world strength and Communist weakness, adding: "There is a world-wide feeling that a new stage in contemporary history may be about to begin." Few went as far as Germany's Frankfurter Rundschau (pro-opposition) which trumpeted: "End of Cold War Expected."

Amid the general euphoria, a number of reservations were expressed, particularly in France and Germany. The influential conservative Figaro, Paris, questioned: "Is the detente in the Caribbean a turning point in the history of relations between Communism and the Free World...? All experts believe that another and much more disturbing threat to U.S. security may appear in the more or less distant future -- that of Soviet submarines equipped with nuclear missiles." The Rheinische Post (Duesseldorf, pro-CDU) stressed that "the political problem of Communist rule at the front door of

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the U.S. remains" and predicted that the Americans would remain on the "quiver." Other papers also backed the President's determination to continue the fight against Cuban subversion. Rome's Il Tempo, right-center, termed the Communist base there "a problem that concerns not only the U. S. but the whole Western Hemisphere."

In Sweden, leading liberal papers Dagens Nyheter and Expressen stressed the still open question of inspection of the removal of the Soviet bombers, but neither anticipated that this would be a serious problem. The conservative Kvaellsposten, praising both the President and Khrushchev as "realistically minded political leaders," predicted a "gradual positive development of East-West relations," eventually leading to agreement on Berlin and disarmament.

Both the Göteborgs Posten and the Sundsvalls Tidning stressed the lowered prestige of Castro who, according to the former, is now simply "a pawn in the game between the big powers" and, according to the latter, "a factor that may now be written off."

FAR EAST

Available area comment was limited to Japan and South Korea. The English-language Korean Republic (Seoul) felt that there was little doubt that the Soviets would live up to their pledge to remove the IL-28 bombers, but opined that there were many difficult problems yet to be overcome. Whatever the outcome, however, the Republic felt that the President had succeeded "both in reversing Russia's military build-up in Cuba and avoiding thermonuclear war."

The Japanese press welcomed the Soviet bomber removal pledge and the U.S. lifting of the quarantine, but also warned that the Cuban problem had not been settled by the two moves. Mainichi concluded that Cuba still remained a "powder keg" as long as it remains a base for Communist offensives. It added that the present tension could be further eased by Castro's acceptance of on-site investigation of missile sites by U.N. teams.

Asahi, the nation's number one paper, felt that there was no guarantee that a new crisis would not again develop, chided Americans for "chasing Cuba into the arms of the Communists", and advised the U.S. to bring Cuba back into the Latin American fold by extending economic and technical assistance to it.

Yomiuri opined that a beginning could be made on peaceful U.S.-Cuban relations by having the U.S. offer an "iron-clad guarantee of non-aggression" which might be implemented by the U.N.

A nationwide Japanese press poll, released on November 21, illustrated Japanese failure to reach a firm conclusion as to who scored highest in the Cuban crisis. On the basis of pre-November 21 developments 20 per cent thought the U.S. had won, compared to 12 per cent who opted for the Soviet Union. Most significantly, 50 per cent felt that they didn't know.

SOUTH ASIA

The Times of India, reviewing the developments of the past few days, now concludes that the Cuban crisis is ended, and proceeds to hand out kudos to the principal actors. U Thant is praised for his "unobtrusive diplomacy" which, the paper says, "succeeded in putting Dr. Castro in a more reasonable frame of mind." President Kennedy's policy, the paper concludes, was "spectacularly successful", proving to Moscow that "it cannot try to change the military equation radically without creating a very real danger of war." The Soviet Premier is in turn complimented because he immediately realized his miscalculation on the Cuban bases and "did not allow false considerations of prestige to prevent his staging a diplomatic retreat."

Navashakti, a Marathi-language daily in Bombay, concludes firmly that the President's policy saved "peace with freedom." According to this paper, "the American action has not only saved the world, but has brought new confidence in freedom and democracy." Khrushchev, the daily declares, "cowered and surrendered" in the face of the American policy.

CUBA

As if to buoy up sagging spirits and possibly jog Mr. Mikoyan, El Mundo's deputy director wrote a piece on November 20 which recalled a meeting with Khrushchev on October 26, "at the height of the Cuban crisis." The article quoted the Soviet Premier as having repeated his guarantee "that the USSR Government and nation does not intend to resign from sacrifices in the defense of the interests of Cuba, which the USSR considers its own." According to El Mundo, Khrushchev at that time also encouraged Cuba to continue along "the path to socialism." The Havana paper interpreted all this to mean that the USSR "as a great power gives its might in the service of peace. This does not mean that it is likely to disavow the aims of its principles."

Agence France Presse reported from Havana that there is extensive popular and private official criticism of the Soviet Union's actions, particularly among students. It interpreted Mikoyan's prolonged stay as a sign of unfinished crisis business and Cuban-Soviet strained relations.

There were apparently only two brief Havana radio references to Mikoyan's presence: One reported that he was welcomed by Raul Castro during his current tour of the Eastern Provinces.

A Havana broadcast to North America counters the arrest of Cuban terrorists in New York with charges that it is really the U.S. Government which exports terror, aggression and exploitation "not only to Cuba but all over the world."

Available material contains nothing about actual developments in the Cuban crisis. The AFP report cited earlier said that the island has been converted into an armed camp, but it also mentioned that tension has fallen in Havana since the lifting of the U.S. naval quarantine. However, Castro reportedly is convinced that Cuban reluctance to have on-the-ground inspection and the related unwillingness of the U.S. to sign a non-aggression pledge will lead to an invasion of his country. AFP added that he had told various audiences that such action would come in the guise of a "local war" with the use of conventional weapons.